

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 remain active in the application. The claims have been amended to clarify that the detection of an abnormality in the hydraulic pressure control circuit is "based upon a determined made" within the predetermined time. Basis for this will be evident from the following discussion.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Butler for the courtesy of an interview on October 27, 2004 at which time the outstanding Office action was discussed. In particular, Applicants pointed out the shortcomings of the applied prior art relative to the presently amended claims. No agreement was reached, pending the Examiner's further review of the applied prior art.

As was discussed during the interview, in accordance with a feature of the invention set forth in the claims, an abnormality detecting device or method for a vehicular hydraulic pressure control circuit determines the presence of an abnormality based upon a determination made within a predetermined time after an ignition switch is turned from ON to OFF, and during which the power supply to an electronic control unit is kept on. In the case where an electromagnetic control valve which generates hydraulic pressure corresponding to a signal supplied from an electronic control unit is provided with a hydraulic switch which is turned on when the hydraulic pressure generated by the electromagnetic control valve is equal to or higher than a predetermined value, a problem arises in determining whether a detected abnormality is present in the electromagnetic control valve or in the hydraulic switch, since either abnormality will produce a result whereby it is determined that the hydraulic switch is in the ON state in situations where the hydraulic pressure should not be present (see paragraph [0004]).

According to the present invention, this problem is addressed by keeping the power supply of the electronic control unit on for a predetermined time after the ignition switch is

Interview
Recorded
OK
Butler
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